

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3962

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017

Sanitation and Water Supply in Rural Areas

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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanitation criteria prescribed under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin in rural areas of the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate amount of safe drinking water to every person in rural area including Rajasthan for making food and other household chores and for cattles;
- (c) whether the Government is facing challenges in implementation of the drinking water and sanitation schemes; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenges in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM-G) entails improving the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitised. ODF would mean the termination of faecal-oral transmission, defined by, a) no visible faeces found in the environment/village and, b) every household as well as public/community institution(s) using safe technology option for disposal of faeces.

The SBM-G guidelines also provide setting up systems for scientific disposal of waste. Technological options for Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) have been provided to the States.

(b) The mandate of the Ministry is to provide financial and technical assistance to the States for coverage of rural water supply in the country for drinking, cooking and other domestic needs. This Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for the rural drinking water sector for the period 2011-2022, which stresses on extending the piped water supply to more households in the rural areas. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% rural households with piped water supply; at least 80% of rural households have piped water supply with a household connection; less than 10% use public taps and less than 10% use hand pumps or other safe and adequate private water sources. The focus of the Ministry is on the completion of ongoing schemes and States have been asked to expedite the completion of ongoing schemes on priority with focus on water quality affected areas especially with arsenic and fluoride contamination.

(c) and (d) In respect of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), providing drinking water supply to rural areas of the country is a dynamic process. The coverage made under this sector slips back to some extent due to various reasons viz. life span of drinking water scheme, depletion in ground water level etc.

In respect of SBM(G), Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue. The focus is heavily on triggering entire communities for collective behavioral change. Emphasis is to be placed on awareness generation, triggering mindsets leading to community behaviour change and demand generation for sanitary facilities in houses, schools, Anganwadis, places of community congregation, for Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities., promoting technological innovations, streamlining financial and programme management and converging other development schemes with sanitation to promote sustainability. In order to address the above challenges, a number of measures have been taken/being taken under SBM(G). These include:

â€¢ Focus on community based collective behavior change involves change of mindset. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages, rather than only on construction of individual toilets.

â€¢ The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.

â€¢ There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management.

â€¢ The programme is being run as a janandolan with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.

â€¢ There is an emphasis on streamlining administrative and financial procedures as well as to increase accountability.

â€¢ Innovations in technology is being promoted at the National and State levels. A Standing National Committee under Prof. R.A.Mashelkar examines all new technologies from the point of view of safety and feasibility.

â€¢ Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened. The IMIS has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App.

â€¢ Zila Swachhata Preraks are being engaged for support of districts.

â€¢ Web portal of Swachh Sangrah has been developed for knowledge sharing.